



Zero Waste Arlington March 2023 Meeting Minutes - Approved

Date: 03/23/2023

Time: 7:00

Location: *Online Zoom Meeting*

Attendees:

Members: Larry Slotnick, Jim Ballin, Scott Mullen, Charlotte Milan, Paul Goldberg, Jennifer Campbell, Emily Dertz, Sarah Kmetz, Amy Speare, Margie Bell,

Residents: Daniel Martin, Julie Benyo

Agenda:

1. Old Business
 - a. Review and approve Feb 2023 ZWA meeting minutes
2. New Business
 - a. Plastics Reduction Subcommittee Update
 - i. AOT (Arlington On Tap)
 - ii. NPP (No Plastic Please)
 - b. Website - communications subcommittee update - Amy - adding monthly themes to the website. Slash the Trash at AHS has reduced cafeteria waste by 25%. March is food waste theme. April is "On the Go." Blog Posts submitted by Emily, Food Link?,
 - c. Legislative subcommittee - discussion on legislative priorities
 - d. Next webinar topic
 - e. Recycling Coordinator update
 - f. Miscellaneous topics
- 3.

Minutes:

1. The committee reviewed the Feb 2023 minutes but will approve them in April.
2. Daniel Martin is an AHS Senior and fascinated by Repair. He organised his first FixItClinic on Sat March 25 as well as one in May 2023, both at Robbins Community Room. Charlotte child in to let us know that an Arlington resident ? is taking on recycling of many televisions that are dropped off at the Recycle Center and is testing them so they can be donated to refugee households. He feels that access to television helps them acclimate to the United States and to learn the language. He provides a \$25 antenna with

each television so that the households don't need to subscribe to cable TV or the Internet in order to benefit.

3. NPP (No Plastic Please)- Emily shared that six (6) restaurants are signed on to NPP. It's time consuming to plan and do the restaurant interviews. Charlotte asked if residents can provide feedback about restaurants they feel are compliant. Amy suggested a web form that residents can fill out after they visit/patronize a restaurant to help with the effort. Charlotte spoke recently with Beth Locke, who indicated a willingness to help out with our activities wrt Restaurants, as many are members of the Chamber. Larry will follow up with Beth. Amy wants to see more focus on the Official media-communications launch for NPP, and this requires multiple efforts. There was a tentative launch date of April 1 that will be missed. Apr 4 meeting is the next meeting of the PRWGroup. Lots of work still needed to outline the messaging to Arlington residents about what "NPP" means.
4. AOT (Arlington On Tap) - Jennifer shared about the upcoming construction season, Center Square Realty/John Gosselin, large store survey performed by Larry. Larry emailed John Gosselin expressing our Committee's desire to help with management of the Swan Place bottle filler. Amy shared the photo from Stop & Shop showing shelves of different brands of boxed water that needs our attention because this is a worse outcome than plastic bottles as they have a plastic coating or foil liner and are unrecyclable. Jim suggested that the bylaw might end up needing tweaking in order to curtail this retail response to Article 12. Jim might check with Town Counsel to see if S&S is correctly interpreting the bylaw. Jim has scheduled a May 4 mtg scheduled Sandy Pooler and other Town stakeholders for the bottle filling stations.
5. Website - communications subcommittee update - Amy - adding monthly themes to the website. March has had a food waste theme. Slash the Trash club at AHS has reduced cafeteria waste by 25%. A Blogpost was submitted by Emily regarding things you can do around in your house. Larry is checking on a blog post from Food Link. April's theme is "On the Go." Amy would like to promote three upcoming webinars: First is the April 4 Food Justice webinar cosponsored by Food Link and Harvard Law School. Second is the April Xx Cambridge storytelling webinar Recycling and Waste: Adam Minter of Bloomberg and Brooke Nash (MassDEP Branch Chief for Municipal Waste Reduction) and the third is Food Link's Thurs April 13th webinar about food waste with panelists from Food Link, Black Earth and MassDEP.
6. Legislative subcommittee - Paul and Mully provided updates on several items ([see full list on the subcommittee draft doc](#)), highlights below:
 - Follow up with the state house Zero Waste caucus. Start with co-chair, Rep Michelle Ciccolo of Lexington. There are currently 38 state reps and 16 senators in the caucus which is described by Watertown's Rep Owens as a 'working group' and 'outcomes focused'. An important focus of the caucus is on plastic waste reduction.
 - Eileen Ryan of Watertown recently formed a Boston chapter of Beyond Plastics (BP). They are holding a postcard writing campaign March 25 to send cards to state reps urging their support of pending plastics reduction legislation. Add BP to outreach list to compare notes on target legislation.

- Paul/Mully to draft and circulate a regular meeting schedule for the legislative subcommittee
- Charlotte chimed in that we should start connecting with a certain group of legislators to better leverage ZWA's efforts

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM